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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/371,212	08/10/1999	RONALD A. KATZ	245/099	8956

7590 01/30/2002

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EXAMINER

WOO, STELLA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

[Handwritten signature]

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/371,212

Applicant(s)
Katz

Examiner
Stella Woo

Art Unit
2643



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 18, 2001

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 51-72 is/are pending in the application

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 51-72 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The request filed on December 18, 2001 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/371,212 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.
2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 51-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shavit et al. (USPN 4,799,156, hereinafter "Shavit") in view of Kaye et al. (USPN 5,727,164, hereinafter "Kaye").

Shavit discloses a method of telephonically using a traffic control system (interactive market management system) for communication involving a buyer terminal (buyer 62) and at least one vendor terminal (distributors 83 or suppliers 84) for consummating sales transactions (processing business transactions; Abstract), the method including the steps of:

establishing telephonic communication from a buyer terminal to receive a buyer request (a buyer can submit a request for quotation (RFQ) over the public telephone system; col. 11, lines 39-51; col. 12, line 54 - col. 13, line 10);

indicating a transaction (the RFQ includes the goods or services desired by the buyer; col. 12, line 63 - col. 13, line 9);

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establishing telephonic communication with at least one vendor terminal to transmit the buyer request (the RFQ data is transmitted to a distributor for authorization, resulting in a bid released to the buyer for conversion to a purchase order (col. 13, lines 29-34; col. 13, line 54 - col. 14, line 9); and

making a record regarding transactions for billing purposes (orders are recorded for payment processing; col. 8, line 55 - col. 9, line 42; col. 14, lines 33-62).

Shavit differs from the claims in that it does not specify the buyer request as including a specified purchase price. However, Kaye teaches the desirability of allowing a buyer to specify the maximum cost as part of the desired product information (col. 4, lines 11-20; col. 5, line 53 - col. 6, line 2) in order to locate a vendor willing to sell the desired product at minimum cost. Since Shavit is similarly directed to providing buyers with access to multiple vendors, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to allow a buyer to include a desired purchase price as part of the buyer request, as taught by Kaye, within the request for quotation of Shavit in order to locate a vendor willing to sell the desired product at minimum cost.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Spiegelhoff et al. (USPN 5,402,336) show another product ordering system in which a buyer can specify a price in order to locate the lowest-priced vendor. King, Jr. et al. (USPN 5,319,542), Dworkin (USPN 4,992,940), Brown et al. (USPN 4,972,318) show other automated purchase systems which handle transactions from among a plurality of vendors.

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5. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

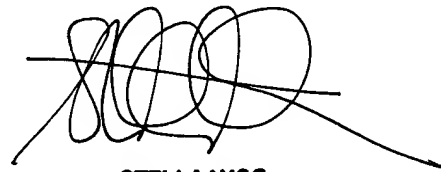
or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stella Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-4395. Any general inquiries should be directed to the Customer Service Office at (703) 306-0377.

January 28, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**STELLA WOO
PRIMARY EXAMINER**